

### Applicants:

**Serial No.:**

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Filed:**

December 1, 2000

**For:**

## Gene Silencing

**Group Art Unit: 1636**

**Attorney Docket No.:** SYN-047CN

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 21, 2001.

*Audra Hye*

**AND FOURTH PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Notice of Incomplete Reply mailed June 6, 2001, applicants herewith submit the following Amended Response to Notice of March 13, 2001.

## AMENDMENT

**In the Specification:**

On a separate page following the claims, please insert the following Abstract. A clean copy of the Abstract on a separate page is also enclosed.

## -- ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Constructs and methods for enhancing the inhibition of a target gene within an organism involve inserting into the gene silencing vector an inverted repeat sequence of all or part of a polynucleotide region within the vector. The inverted repeat

sequence may be a synthetic polynucleotide sequence or comprise  
a modified natural polynucleotide sequence. --


**REMARKS**

A new copy of the Abstract is submitted herewith as requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is complete in all respects and request that the application proceed to examination.

Please note that the Attorney of Record and correspondence address for this application have changed. An Associate Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address are submitted herewith. Future correspondence in this application should be sent to the undersigned attorney at the address shown below.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present submission. In the event that any fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Attorney's Deposit Account Number 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hale and Dorr, LLP

  
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June 21, 2001  
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